

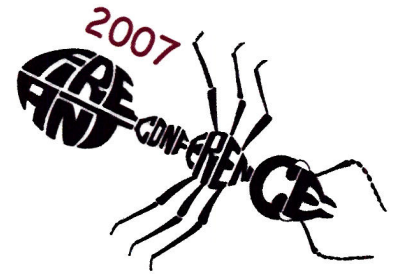


United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Research
Service

South Atlantic Area
**Center for Medical,
Agricultural and
Veterinary Entomology**

1600/1700 SW 23rd Drive
Gainesville, FL 32608



Greetings all fire ant customers and partners,

We are happy to invite you all to Gainesville, FL, home of the University of Florida Gators, for the 2007 Annual Red Imported Fire Ant Conference, April 23-25. The success of these Conferences depends on your attendance and participation so you can bet that we will be doing our best to make the 2007 IFA Conference a memorable event! We have selected the Best Western Gateway Grand as the venue for the Conference. Besides attractions in and around Gainesville we are less than two hours from the Atlantic coast, Gulf Coast, and the many attractions around Orlando, so there are a variety of opportunities for fun activities and sightseeing adventures. Please bookmark and visit the meeting web site (<http://www.ars.usda.gov/saa/cmave/ifa2007>) for links and additional information.

Walter Tschinkel (Florida State University) will be our Keynote speaker. We are anticipating a day and a half of formal research presentations, then in late afternoon on April 25th there will be an Areawide Project Core member meeting. The morning of the 26th the Imported Fire Ant e-Xtension group will hold a workshop at the Best Western Gateway Grand. Contact Kathy Flanders (flandkl@auburn.edu) for more information.

If you would like to visit the Imported Fire Ant and Household Insects Research Unit scientists and facilities please make arrangements in advance, as this will be a busy time. Transportation will be provided if necessary. Foreign visitors to the USDA facility need to provide specific information at least two weeks prior to the visit. See the Conference website for details (<http://www.ars.usda.gov/saa/cmave/ifa2007>).

Registration includes a reception the evening of April 23rd, lunch and banquet on the 24th, and amenities during breaks throughout the Conference. A Continental breakfast is included with your room if you stay at the Best Western Gateway Grand. We also have as an option, lunch and a visit to the Florida Museum of Natural History and the associated McGuire Center Butterfly Rainforest exhibit (web link is on the registration form). This is something not to be missed!

All the members of the Fire Ant and Household Insects Unit are looking forward to hosting the 2007 Annual Imported Fire Ant Conference in Gainesville. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Margaret Martin (352-374-5980), or me (352-374-5855), or any other member of the Organization Committee.

Sincerely,

Bob Vander Meer
Chairperson, 2007 Annual Fire Ant Conference